

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 191742
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 INR-07 /035 R

DRAFTED BY EB/IFD/ODF:AADAMS:SB
APPROVED BY EB/IFD/ODF:MVCREEKMORE
-----011115 130139Z /70

P 122221Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD

SUBJECT: TDB MINISTERIAL

FOLLOWING FOR INFO TO ADDRESSEE POSTS:

QUOTE:

P 11182BZ JUN 77

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD

SUBJECT: TDB MINISTERIAL

REF: GENEVA 4451

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES MISSION'S THOUGHTFUL VIEWS ON
ROLE OF UNCTAD IN POST-CIEC PERIOD (REFTEL) AND AGREES
THAT TDB MINISTERIAL WILL BE AN IMPORTANT DECISION POINT

IN DEFINING THE ORGANIZATION'S PLACE IN THE OVERALL
NORTH/SOUTH INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK.

2. WE HAVE NOTED IN GENEVA 4426 UNCTAD SECRETARIAT CON-
SIDERATION OF POSTPONEMENT OF TDB MINISTERIAL UNTIL 1978.
SUCH POSTPONMENT WOULD APPEAR TO SERVE OUR INTEREST AND
MISSION SHOULD ENCOURAGE THIS DEVELOPMENT IN WHATEVER WAY
OFFERS BEST CHANCE OF REINFORCING PROSPECT OF POSTPONEMENT
A MINISTERIAL SESSION SO SOON AFTER CIEC WOULD OFFER LITTLE
OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW PROGRESS, GIVEN MAJOR EFFORT INDUSTRIAL
COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS EXPENDED ON CIEC AND WILL NEED TO EX-
PEND IN FOLLOW THROUGH ON DECISIONS REACHED AT SUMMIT AND
CIEC. PROSPECT OF G-77 DISAPPOINTMENT WOULD, THEREFORE, BE
HIGH. EARLY UNCTAD/TDB MINISTERIAL AND COINCIDENCE OF
MINISTERIAL WITH UNGA WOULD INCREASE POTENTIAL FOR JURIS-
DICTIONAL WRANGLES AT TDB. WE WOULD PROBABLY BE IN A
BETTER POSITION IN 1978 FOR A TDB MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF
THE POST-CIEC ROLE OF UNCTAD. AT THAT POINT, HOPEFULLY,
PROGRESS IN MTN ON TRADE ISSUES, IMF AND JOINT DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND DEBT ISSUES, INDIVIDUAL UNCTAD
COMMODITY NEGOTIATIONS AND COMMON FUND TALKS WOULD HAVE
EFFECTIVELY LODGED MANY ISSUES WE WISH TO RESIDE IN FUNC-
TIONALLY-SPECIFIC FORUMS IN JUST SUCH FORUMS.
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3. LATER MINISTERIAL MAY BE AN AUSPICIOUS OPPORTUNITY TO
CLARIFY UNCTAD'S WORK IN RELATION TO OTHER FUNCTIONAL
FORA, SUCH AS THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, THE IMF,
GATT, ETC. ALTERNATIVELY--AND THIS IS A REAL DANGER--A
PREMATURE MINISTERIAL WOULD BECOME A VEHICLE FOR EXPANDING
UNCTAD'S LIMITED MANDATES IN AREAS SUCH AS MONETARY
AFFAIRS, DEBT AND OFFICIAL TRANSFERS WHICH WE WOULD LIKE
TO SEE HANDLED ELSEWHERE.

4. GIVEN THE CIEC BACKGROUND, AND UNCTAD'S AMBITIONS TO
ENHANCE ITS ROLE IN ALL NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES, IT SEEMS TO

US THAT OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE AT THE MINISTERIAL SHOULD
BE TO AFFIRM IN A POSITIVE SPIRIT AREAS WHERE UNCTAD CAN
PLAY A USEFUL ROLE WITHOUT PREJUDGING CONSIDERATION OF THE
PARTICULAR SENSITIVE MONETARY AND OTHER ISSUES WE WISH TO
TAKE UP IN MORE APPROPRIATE FORA.

5. WHAT WE HAVE IN IMND IS NOT A DEBATE ON THE INSTITU-
TIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE AFTER CIEC,
BUT A MINISTERIAL AGENDA--DEFINED AS SPECIFICALLY AS
POSSIBLE--WHICH WOULD SERVE TO STRUCTURE UNCTAD'S WORK IN
THE INTERIM BEFORE THE 5TH CONFERENCE. IN YOUR B GROUP
CONSULTATIONS JUNE 13-17 WE SUGGEST YOU FIRST ASSESS THE

PROSPECT FOR POSTPONEMENT AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENCOURAGE THIS. SHOULD A FALL TDB MINISTERIAL NEVERTHELESS APPEAR LIKELY WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING OUTLINE OF A MINISTERIAL AGENDA IN KEEPING WITH THE PRINCIPLE IN RESOLUTION 98(IV) THAT THE MINISTERIAL SHOULD FOCUS ON A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT POLICY AREAS AND NOT EXCLUSIVELY ON DEBT OR RELATED QUESTIONS.

(A) A REVIEW OF UNCTAD'S WORK SINCE NAIROBI IN TECHNOLOGY, MANUFACTURERS, AND COMMODITIES AND A REAFFIRMATION OF ITS MANDATE IN THESE TRADITIONAL AREAS. IN SUGGESTING THIS TOPIC, WE DO NOT INTEND A FULL SCALE SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE, ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THE RISKS THAT THE G-77 WILL WANT TO USE THIS ITEM TO RENEW PRESSURES FOR CONCESSIONS. TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINIMIZE THIS RISK, WE WOULD NEED TO MAKE VERY CLEAR THAT DISCUSSION OF THESE TOPICS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO A NEUTRAL PROGRESS REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT OF WHERE MATTERS NOW STAND AND OF WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE AND THAT THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD KEEP CLEARLY IN MIND THE JURISDICTIONS OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS (E.G. GATT/MTN, WIPO). WE WOULD OPPOSE FOR EXAMPLE ANY DISCUSSION ON A COMMON FUND AT THE MINISTERIAL, SINCE A FULL SCALE NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE OF THIS SUBJECT IS SCHEDULED IN UNCTAD FOR NOVEMBER.

DISCUSSION SHOULD BE LIMITED TO A REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON SPECIFIC COMMODITY NEGOTIATIONS.

(B) IN KEEPING WITH UNCTAD RESOLUTION 98 (IV) AND TDB DECISION 149 (SVI), A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL SITUATIONS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED AND OF MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY DONORS TO ENHANCE ASSISTANCE TO THESE COUNTRIES. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS RESOLUTION MENTIONS INTER ALIA DEBT OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED BUT HOPE THAT THIS ASPECT WILL BE DOWN PLAYED TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ENTIRE RANGE OF LDC ISSUES. THEREFORE, WE SHOULD STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE USE OF DEBT RELIEF AS A FORM OF RESOURCE TRANSFER. FOR REASONS STATED BY A MAJORITY OF B GROUP AT THE 16TH SESSION OF THE TDB, OCTOBER 1976, WE CONSIDER ANY OBLIGATIONS REGARDING LLDC DEBT PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 98 (IV) TO

HAVE BEEN SATISFIED FULLY AND WOULD OPPOSE ANY EFFORTS TO MAKE LLDC DEBT A SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM.

(C) A REVIEW OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 94 (IV) SPECIFICALLY AND EXCLUSIVELY PARA TWO WHICH STATES "INVITES APPROPRIATE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL FORA TO DETERMINE BEFORE THE END OF 1976, WHAT FEATURES MIGHT USEFULLY BE DISCERNED FROM PAST OPERATIONS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOGETHER WITH OTHERS THAT MIGHT BE IDENTIFIED IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRESENT SITUATION OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN NEED WHICH COULD PROVIDE GUIDANCE IN FUTURE OPERATIONS RELATING TO DEBT PROBLEMS AS A BASIS FOR DEALING FLEXIBLY WITH INDIVIDUAL CASES. IT IS OUR FIRM UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS IS THE ONLY ASPECT OF DEBT TO BE SEPARATELY CONSIDERED AT THE MINISTERIAL. THIS POSITION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE NARROW MANDATE IN 94 (IV); IT IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE

THAT THE AGENDA REFLECT THIS STRICT INTERPRETATION.

5. IN THE LIGHT OF THE FAILURE TO AGREE AT CIEC ON A CONTINUATION OF THE ENERGY DIALOGUE, WE ARE NOW ASSESSING WHETHER, AND IF SO, WHEN, HOW, AND WHERE TO MAKE NEW EFFORTS TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE. THIS ASSESSMENT WILL ALSO COVER THE QUESTION OF WHICH EXISTING FORUM WOULD BE BEST SUITED FOR CONTINUATION OF THE ONGOING ENERGY DIALOGUE. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THESE QUESTIONS IN THE IEA GOVERNING BOARD LATER THIS MONTH AS WELL AS BILATERALLY WITH THE PRINCIPAL G-8 MEMBERS. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO DECIDE NOW WHETHER TO INCLUDE AN ITEM ON ENERGY IN TDB MINISTERIAL. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, BE INTERESTED IN ANY VIEWS FROM OTHER GROUP B COUNTRIES WHICH THE DELEGATION MIGHT PICK UP IN THE COURSE OF THE JUNE CONSULTATIONS.

6. WITH REGARD TO THE POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONMENT OF MINISTERIAL PER GENEVA 4426, YOU MAY INDICATE THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH SUCH A DECISION. A RESCHEDULED MINISTERIAL WHICH WOULD FOCUS INTER ALIA ON UNCTAD V PREPARATIONS WOULD REQUIRE A BROAD AGENDA AS WE OUTLINED ABOVE. WE ASSUME IN THIS CASE THAT JULY DEBT EXPERTS MEETING WOULD ALSO BE RESCHEDULED AS WELL AS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING EXPERTS MEETING ON "INTERDEPENDENCE OF TRADE, DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND MONETARY ARRANGEMENTS" WHICH APPEARS RELATED TO DEBT MEETING. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD SEEK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO HAVE NEW TIMING OF BOTH REPEAT BOTH MEETINGS MADE SUBJECT TO CONSULTATIONS WITH GROUP, AS WE MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON NEED FOR EXPERTS MEETING ON INTERDEPENDENCE. VANCE UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE191742
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AADAMS:SB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770291-0984
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770865/aaaacdev.tel
Line Count: 221
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fe36755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GENEVA 4451
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1612357
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TDB MINISTERIAL FOLLOWING FOR INFO TO ADDRESSEE POSTS: QUOTE
TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD
To: BONN BRUSSELS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fe36755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009